

ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the
Irish Radio Transmitters Society
November/December 2005

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The views expressed in Echo Ireland do
not necessarily represent the views of the
Society or the Editor

**Deadline for next edition
January 24th**

**Theory Examination
Wednesday January 18th 2006
ComReg Offices, Dublin**

**Coolmine Rally
Sunday February 12th
Coolmine Community School**

**Lisburn Rally
Saturday, 11 March 2006
Conference Centre,
Lagan Valley Hospital, Lisburn**

**2006 Limerick Rally
Sunday 12th March 2006
Greenhills Hotel, Limerick**

**IRTS AGM 2006
Cork
April 22/23rd 2006**



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News Bulletins and Readers

Sunday				
Dublin	1100	7.043	SSB	Colm EI3H, Sean EI7CD, Gerry EI8CC
Wicklow	1130	3.680	SSB (as Gaeilge)	Paddy EI7GK
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM	Sean EI5GH, Brendan EI8IB
Dublin	1200	3.650	SSB	As 1100
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM	Tommy EI7IT, John EI2JB, Andy EI5JF
Dublin	2130	145.525	FM	As 1145
Monday				
Cork	2000	145.750	FM	Con EI7DJB, Vincent EI7HN
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM	Brian EI9AL, Tony EI2AW
Louth	2000	145.675		Peter EI4HX, Thos EI2JD
Galway	2000	145.625		Aengus EI4ABB, Richard EI5GC
Tuesday				
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM	John EI8JA, Gareth EI7FZB

Silent Key Morgan O'Regan (EI0REI)

It is with regret that we inform you of the death of Morgan O'Regan-EI0REI who died unexpectedly at the Mercy University Hospital in Cork.

Morgan ran the Radio and Electronics School, originally founded by his father, in "Carrig House", Tivoli, Cork, for many years. The School was involved in training students in radio and electronics. Many of these students went on to become Marine Radio Operators, with companies like Marconi etc.

Morgan was very well known in Limerick Radio Club and took part in many NFD CW contests and DXpeditions to islands, run by the club in the mid sixties/early seventies.

He was a brilliant CW operator and made a huge contribution to the successful running of many of these events.

He will be sadly missed by his friends in Amateur Radio, but particularly by the more senior members of Limerick Radio Club, who would have known him and who would have enjoyed his company on many club outings in the past.

Morgan was predeceased by his wife Marie. To his son and daughters and his extended family we extend our deepest sympathy. May he rest in peace.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dilis.

Dubus Magazine

IRTS has been appointed as the Irish distributor for the DUBUS Magazine, a quarterly magazine for VHF, UHF and Microwave enthusiasts.

This is a publication that no serious VHF/UHF/Microwave DXer should be without.

It is mailed directly to subscribers from the publishers in Germany.

The annual subscription remains unchanged at €22.00 for 2006 and should be forwarded to:

Dave Moore, EI4BZ,
Dooneen, Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork.

Amateur radio in EI and particularly in the north east lost one of its most colourful characters with the death of Dermot Cowley EI2AK on Wednesday October 19th last.

Born in Beupark House in Co. Meath in 1936 to Patrick and Bridget Cowley, he was raised in Trimgate St. in Navan and was the youngest of five children. He attended De La Salle Christian Brothers School in Navan and was also a young member of the Navan Boys Silver Band where his lifelong appreciation of music and the arts was cultivated.

He went on to become a keen musician and was delighted to break out his trombone at social occasions. In his early years Dermot developed an interest in electronics and communication. In the cupboard under the stairs at Trimgate St. a 12 year old Dermot built himself a prototype workshop (or Shack) This was the beginning of an enduring passion for amateur radio.

He was a prominent member of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society and a founding member of the Microwave Society of Ireland as well as being a member of the R.S.G.B.

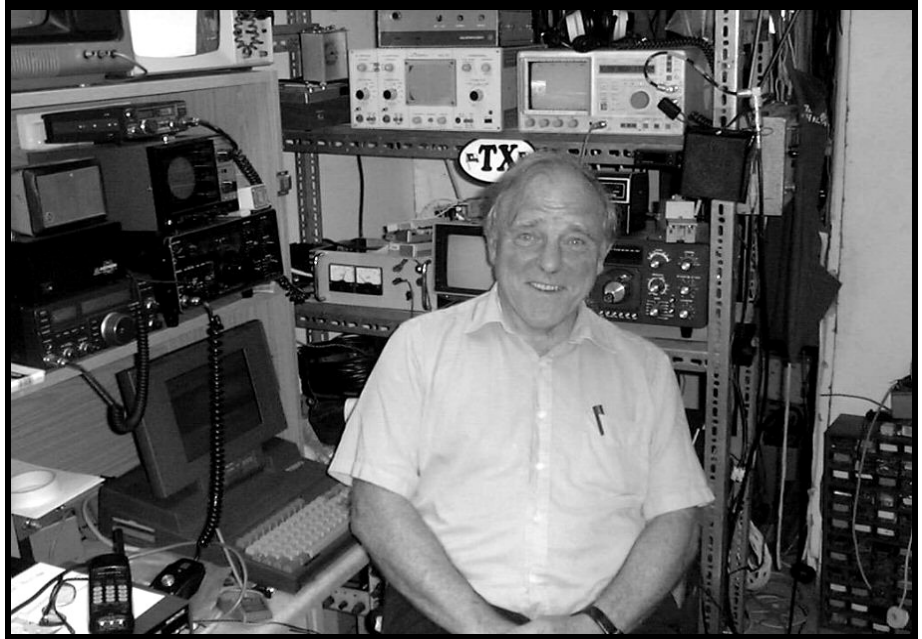
After leaving school Dermot was taken under the wing of Shane MacNamee in Navan where his interest in electronics and communication became a career. In 1957 he moved to W.E. Berney's in Drogheda and became the town's first television service engineer.

It was not long after his moving to Drogheda that he met Ann McKinney who would later become his wife and best friend. Marrying in 1960 the couple first lived on Palace St. in Drogheda before settling down to raise their children in Beamore Rd. in Drogheda.

His professional expertise in radio and television and his personal passion for amateur radio lent itself to a natural career progression and he joined ANCO (later to become FAS) as an electronics teacher. Ultimately his love for amateur radio won through and in 1975 he decided to build a new QTH on the top of Fieldstown Hill Monasterboice, where the family still live today. This location made Dermot the envy of his many amateur friends and the house and surrounds were like a shrine at times with all sorts of electronic equipment and aerials to be found.

In 1981 Dermot bought The Club, a public house on Narrow West St. in

Silent Key Dermot Cowley EI2AK



Drogheda, now called O'Shea's. It was a dream of Dermot's to own his own pub and he did it with pride, enjoying every moment. Eventually, he retired to a quieter life in Fieldstown. Not many people were aware of Dermot's great love of music. He was very proud of being a member of the St. Peter's Male Voice Choir and later the Fieldstown Choir and was originally involved with the Drogheda Musical Society. He loved Classical Music and jazz. He was a regular visitor to the Proms and classical concerts. Dermot proudly and generously imparted his love of music and the arts to his family and friends.

A man of many talents Dermot was also a member of the Drogheda Sub Aqua club and was a keen swimmer. One of his greatest moments was saving a drowning lady from the river Boyne at Oldbridge Co. Meath in 1982.

On the radio front, Dermot's main interest was in the higher bands, VHF and up. He eventually found the microwave bands to be most interesting. He worked SSB, narrow and wideband FM on 10GHz and was a well known signal in the U.K. He was a regular attendee at overseas microwaves conventions. He was also active in Amateur Television on 23 cms and 10 GHz right up to the end.

He was a committed experimenter and home brewer and also participated in the SETI experiment with a listening station

in the shack.

In his younger days he was a committed participant in groups activities, particularly in outdoor events.

His great location meant he was a huge signal into many parts of the UK on the higher bands.

Even with the many interests in his life, Dermot's biggest love was his family. He lovingly raised nine children and doted over 13 grandchildren. He had a unique ability to spread his love between his family of 23, and wider, while making each one feel like the most important person in the world. The most valuable lesson he taught his family is that every moment is beautiful.

He is survived by his wife Ann, daughters Siobhan Carey (Navan) Sinead Hyland (Oldcastle, Co. Meath), Roisin Hughes (Walshestown, Co. Dublin) and sons Shane (Malahide), Dermot (Minneapolis USA) Brian (Drogheda) Oisin (San Diego. USA) Aonagh (Monasterboice. Co Louth) and Niall (London).

Dermot's primary concern was for others and not himself. He regularly went out of his way to help others and sought no favours in return.

He will be sorely missed by his family and wider circle of friends.

Those of us who had the privilege of meeting him will remember him as a real gentle man.

Ar dheis De go raibh a ainm dilis.

ITHE – International Travel Host Exchange

By Fr. Finbarr Buckley EI1CS

On of the many aspects of amateur radio that attracts people to the hobby is being able to communicate with others throughout the whole world.

We Irish by nature are inveterate talkers. We love to chinwag or as we say ourselves to “ragchew” with fellow amateurs from all parts of the globe. Some of these contacts may have been with famous people, such as the late King Hussein of Jordan, or the late Prime Minister Gandhi of India etc. or even the unusual, such as I myself experienced when I once contacted an oarsman rowing across the Atlantic in a rowing boat, and nobody knew where he was exactly.

We have a natural instinct of relating to other people and wanting to hear about their lifestyles and country as well as sharing about our own lives and our radio gear and exchanging other technical information.

Many amateurs have enhanced and improved their language skills as a result of these QSO's.

Sometimes these contacts have gone beyond the once over, and firm friendships have followed that have resulted in mutual exchange visits to each others homes and meeting with their families.

It is against this background scenario that I came across the Internal Travel Host Exchange while representing the IRTS at the recent IARU meeting in Davos, in Switzerland.

It was founded originally by the IARU some twenty years ago and is basically a community within the amateur radio community, whose members enjoy visiting and contacting other hams on an international basis during their holidays, apart from their common hobby.

What is the purpose of the ITHE ?

Basically it is an organization where members can visit other hams or like to be a host for them in order to get to know the country and people more intensively.

Members of ITHE commit themselves to be hosts for other club members for some days and so gain the possibility to visit others the same way. This way of traveling is highly enjoyable since getting to know people in a foreign country personally offers more then just visiting as a tourist.

Getting in contact is easy, since everybody already concerned has a communicative hobby and a common topic to talk about. Interesting chats like these automatically lead to a comfortable relaxed atmosphere.

A nice aspect of this, (especially for young operators and students) is that everything is free.

What commitments are involved?

Naturally it stands to reason that if you want to be received into another amateurs home you should be entitled to reciprocate and offer similar hospitality to other members.

It needs to be noted that there is no explicit commitment to host somebody for one or several days, but generally there should be a willingness to do so, since this is the main purpose of the programme.

What does a membership cost ?

Membership is totally free.

Who can become a member ?

Every ham radio operator who is licensed anywhere in the world or shortwave listeners who are members of their national society, which for us here in Ireland is IRTS.

What is the total membership and is my name published to everyone?

The total membership at the moment is 675 of which 283 are in Europe, 187 in USA/Canada, 12 in Africa/South America and 193 in Oceania.

It is interesting to see that EI has only 1 !!

Your name is only available to other members.

Making contact is easy. A look in the membership list tells you all the other members in the region you want to go to.

Give them a call (letter or email) and ask whether accommodation is possible during the time period in question.

There is no commitment to host everybody at any time, the members may decline, however that happens rarely and continuously denying would contradict the intention of the club.

How do I join and does the ITHE have a web page ?

The ITHE coordinator is Thilo Kootz DL9KCE and his email address is dl9kce@darf-afz.de

Should you require an application form I can fax/email or post it if you send a s.a.e. to me at QTHR.

The web page of the club is:

<http://www.darf.de/referate/ausland/ithe/index.html>

Membership Statistics

Europe

OE	Austria	4
ON	Belgium	1
LZ	Bulgaria	2
F	France	5
DL	Germany	212
HA	Hungary	4
SV	Greece	1
EI	Ireland	1
I	Italy	3
YL	Lithuania	2
PA	Netherlands	2
SP	Poland	15
YO	Romania	2
UA	Russia	4
OM	Slovakia	1
S5	Slovenia	2
EA	Spain	4
SM	Sweden	4
HB	Switzerland	4
G	England	7
UU	Ukraine	2
YU	Yugoslavia	1

North America

K	USA	118
VE	Canada	69

Africa

ET	Ethiopia	1
5Z	Kenya	1
7P	Lesotho	1
CN	Morocco	1
ZS	South Africa	2
5H	Tanzania	1

South America

LU	Argentina	1
HR	Honduras	1
6Y	Jamaica	3

Oceania

VK	Australia	15
YB	Indonesia	2
9M	Malaysia	1
ZL	New Zealand	50

Asia

VU	India	12
JA	Japan	108
4S	Sri Lanka	1
YK	Syria	1
HS	Thailand	3

Total Membership 675

A Christmas Message from the IRTS President

Welcome to the Christmas edition of "Echo Ireland"!

As the temperature drops, the winds blow and the evenings darken it is easy to fall into a state of depression – particularly this year, with the HF bands in such poor fettle. I always think it's great that Christmas, with its bright lights, good cheer and togetherness comes at this time of year to drag us out of our lethargy and remind us "that Spring can't be far behind"

I am now in the third year of my three year term as President and at the AGM in Cork towards the end of April, I will pass the baton to a new leader to bring the Society forward.

It's been an interesting three years – to say the least. Stressful at times, yes, exciting at other times, but it was always interesting. This past year saw the culmination of a long-running negotiation with ComReg on the subject of the Radio Theory Examination. This negotiation was always difficult, often contentious, and even occasionally, ill-tempered, but eventually an accommodation satisfactory to both parties was achieved.

IRTS now has responsibility for the organising, setting and marking of the Examination and it is up to us, and us alone, to ensure that new candidates are brought forward to participate in the hobby and to fill the ranks of the IRTS. Let's make it our first resolution for 2006 to promote that objective.

With this issue of Echo Ireland, you should receive a copy of the 2006 Callbook. In the past, the Society issued a Handbook or Yearbook which included, not only the call listings, but comprehensive information about the IRTS and Amateur Radio generally.

This year, the Committee decided that we should have two publications, a Callbook containing only the call listings and a Handbook with all the other information. The new Handbook should be in your hands in the first half of 2006.



This is also the first edition of Echo Ireland with a colour content. The technology of colour printing has advanced significantly in recent years and the Committee felt it was time to get on the bandwagon! Cost will probably militate against extensive use of colour in future issues but now that we have our toes in the water, you can expect to see colour pages from time to time. Let the Editor know what you think.

How many people know that 2007 will be the 75th Anniversary Year of the IRTS? Not many, I expect.

A sub-Committee has been looking at appropriate methods of celebrating our 75 Birthday and you will see some of the ideas suggested by the

sub-Committee members mentioned in these pages.

Some important Marconi centenary celebrations will also occur in the same year and the possibility of joint events might be investigated.

The sub-Committee would be very appreciative of your ideas, which you should forward through the Editor.

Another innovation announced elsewhere in this edition of the Newsletter is a short 80 metre contest on 2nd January.

Following the celebrations over Christmas and the New Year, most people need some activity.

Here's your opportunity to get out there and have a go, enjoy yourself and activate the 80m band – all at the same time.

Finally, let me wish everybody in Amateur Radio, their OMs, XYLs, YLs and junior ops, the Peace of Christmas and Happiness and Prosperity in 2006.

Guím Beannachtaí na Nollag agus Ath Bhliain fê shéan is fe mhaise oraibh go léir.

Best 73,

Seán Donelan EI4GK

**IRTS
Committee Meeting
Montague Hotel
Portlaoise
January 14th 2006
at 1100**

Thanks Leslie EI4DU

Our sincere thanks to Leslie Long EI4DU who recently handed over the role of IRTS webmaster to Joe Ryan EI7GY.

Leslie was responsible for the initial setting up of the IRTS website and has maintained it since its inception. He will now have more time to concentrate on his main hobby, that of writing and producing stage musicals.

Leslie is a member of the well know Long family from Dunkineely in South Donegal, son of Willie EI6AI and brother of Raymond EI9DM.



IRTS 80 Metres Counties Contest

1. General

All entrants must be fully paid up members of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society. This does not apply to stations outside EI.

2. Date and Time

2.1 2nd January 2006, 1200 to 1500 local time.

3. Sections

- 3.1 a) SSB only Fixed
b) SSB only Portable, 100w max. SSB Field Day Restricted Section rules apply
c) SSB/CW Fixed
d) SSB/CW Portable, 100w max. SSB Field Day Restricted Section Rules apply
- 3.2 Whether portable or fixed, entrants must operate from a single location for the duration of the contest.

4. Modes and Frequencies

- 4.1 SSB and CW. A station may be worked on both modes – except in the SSB only sections.
- 4.2 Only one signal may be transmitted at a time.
- 4.3 QSOs with the same station on different modes must be separated by at least three other QSOs

5. Exchange

- 5.1 Exchange report, serial number (starting 001 for the first contact) and county i.e.59001, Wicklow.

6. Special Rules for Counties Contests

- 6.1 At the discretion of the Contest Manager, entries from stations with poor-quality signals (too wide, overdriven, distorted etc.) will not be eligible for any award and will be treated as check logs.

7. Scoring

- 7.1 Any county in EI/GI 4 points
Contacts outside EI/GI 1 point
- 7.2 Entrants outside EI/GI:
Each contact with EI/GI 4 points
- 7.3 The final score is the total number of points multiplied by the total number of EI/GI counties worked. In the SSB/CW sections, counties only count once.

8. Documentation

- 8.1 Submitted logs should be legible. Accepted formats are handwritten, typed, computer print, or ASCII text files on disk or by email.
- 8.2 A summary sheet should show:
Station location.
Section entered (One section only – do not leave blank).
Final claimed score.
Equipment used.
Name(s) and callsign(s) of operator(s).

9. Awards

- 9.1 An award will be made to the leading EI station in each section.
- 9.2 An award will be made to the leading station outside EI in each section.

10. Entries

- 10.1 Entries, which must be signed, should be sent to:
The IRTS Counties Contest, P.O. Box 462, Dublin 9, or by email to contests@irts.ie to arrive not later than 30 days after the event.

80m Counties Contest

A HF counties contest has been discussed for several years now and it finally comes to pass on January 2nd next. Please give it your full support on the day.

Be aware of your Worked All Ireland square as you will almost certainly be asked for it.

Interest in the Worked EI Counties Award is still high and this should be a great opportunity to get those missing ones.

If the weather is favourable, we should have a few hardy souls travelling to activate some of the rarer counties. If you intend to operate portable, please let the radio news service know in advance.

As the scoring is heavily biased towards inter EI/GI contacts, those with DX aerials for the band should consider something more modest.

Low dipoles or loops should do the business.

Hopefully this contest will attract operators who may have never entered a contest before. Logging on paper is very acceptable but if you have a computer in the shack, it will be well worth the bit of effort to get a logging programme running for the event.

Paul EI5DI has updated his contest logger, SD, to support the IRTS 80m Counties Contest and it will run on any Windows PC and best of all it is available free on www.ei5di.com. Once you start SD, simply select the "IRTS County EI/GI" template and the rest is obvious.

Overseas entrants should select the "IRTS County DX" template. Do make the effort to get the software downloaded in plenty of time to get used to it and if you have any questions, give Paul EI5DI a shout at pokane@ei5di.com or contact any of the regular testers in EI.

If you enter the dual mode section, remember that the county multiplier only counts once irrespective of mode. It is not permissible to make consecutive contacts with the same station on both CW and SSB. You must have at least three other QSOs in between.

It is suggested that 3550 will be the pilot frequency on CW. The WAI frequency of 3680 should be a good starting point on SSB.

Tipperary Annual General Meeting



L to R: Paul Norris EI3ENB, John Cummins SWL, John Ronan EI7IG, Tommy Hallinan EI7IT, Tony Wilson EI3GW, Eamonn Kavanagh EI3FFB, John Lofthouse EI3DIB, John Burke EI2JB. Front: Andy Jay EI5JF

The Tipperary Amateur Radio Group held their AGM on the 10th of November. The committee is unchanged from last year:

Chairman: John Ronan, EI7IG
Vice Chairman: Eamonn Kavanagh, EI3FFB
Secretary: John Burke, EI2JB
Treasurer: Tommy Hallinan, EI2IT
P.R.O: Paul Norris, EI3ENB

The new committee hoped they would be able to effect a resurgence of the club in relation to new members and greater involvement in club outings.

The Tipperary Amateur Radio Group want to thank the owners and staff of Raheen House Hotel in Clonmel for affording the use of their premises for club meetings.

The Group would like to welcome Andrew EI5JF to the position of newsreader and wish him well in his new post.

The IRTS News is broadcast from Tipperary on Sundays nights at 2030 on 145.450 MHz.

Interesting Web Site

Dear OM ,

Please take a look at the following Radio-Amateurs -URL :

<http://blog.seniorennet.be/paintinghistory/archief.php?ID=40>

Just click with the mouse on this URL, and in the text (in Dutch, but you do not need at all to know that language)

which appears, start clicking on the Morse-key -image at the upper left of the page and on the different Links in the text, which will provide a lot of radio-amateur information (in English), photos of older radio-amateur receivers and transmitters , and hundreds of quite rare QSL-cards .

Also included , some interesting QSL's and photos of 4U1ITU and from the International Exhibition (1958) in Brussels.

73 from ON4AW / Harbour of Antwerp / Belgium .

P.S. There is much more to see on this site . If You are an Art-lover , You could click with the mouse on one of the chapters in the left column , for instance cubism (kubisme) to admire some paintings of Picasso , or 'expressionism 'etc . To see the paintings , always click on the upper left image , which appears in the text .

IRTS DXpedition 2007.

The Irish radio Transmitters Society, founded in 1932, celebrates its 75th Jubilee in 2007. The committee will be announcing a full program of events for the Jubilee year in due course. Amongst those events being considered is an Irish DXpedition to Southern Africa.

We have asked an experienced company, African DXsafari, to put together a package which would include a vacation element in Cape Town, South Africa, as well as a radio expedition to Lesotho (7P8) and Swaziland (3DA0). A visit to their website, www.dxsafari.com will give you a flavor of their operations.

It is also hoped to participate in a development project with one or more of the African Radio Societies as part of the Jubilee year celebrations. The visit by the expedition team would be used to launch the project.



A possible configuration would be a nineteen day trip in February 2007, involving a week in South Africa prior to the radio expedition.

The cost, ex Dublin, would be approx €3,200, depending on numbers, with a reduced cost of approx. €2,500 for those coming only for the expedition. We understand that the whole trip is suitable for non radio partners etc., with a full alternative program available. Price would include all flights, transport (air conditioned), accommodation, meals, use of radio equipment etc.

Expressions of interest in participating in the expedition to EI2CA at the following email: paul@comma.ie

A Simple Homebrew Slim Jim Antenna for Two Metres

by Tony Breathnach (EI5EM)

The design of the original Slim Jim antenna is credited to F.C. Judd, G2BCX. This article describes the construction of a simple, practical two-metre Slim Jim using 300-Ohm twin ribbon cable. The antenna is housed in a length of plastic pipe with matching sealing caps at both ends. I used 1.25 or 1.5 inch diameter Wavin pipe because I just happened to have a junk three-metre length to hand. The pipe is long enough that it can also double as a mast.

This particular two-metre Slim Jim antenna is used on the roof of the Martello Tower in Howth for EIOMAR. The antenna cannot be left installed permanently and has to be removed after each operation.

It is stored lying flat on the roof, with the two plastic caps protecting the antenna and coaxial connector from the elements.

The attached photographs are self-explanatory for the most part. The total length of the antenna (not the pipe) is 147 centimetres. Two parallel conductors of that length form the antenna. These two conductors are about two centimetres apart and are shorted together at each end. One of the lengths has a break or gap about two centimetres wide at a point 48 centimetres above the lower end. The antenna is fed with 50-Ohm coaxial cable at a point about 10 centimetres or so above the same lower end. To attain a low SWR, a suitable feed point must be found by trial and error. The centre conductor of the coaxial cable connects to the unbroken conductor, and obviously the braid to that with the gap.

A single 147 centimetre length of 300-Ohm twin ribbon could be used as the antenna with the two centimetre gap cut in one side, and both conductors shorted together at each end. The coaxial feeder could be soldered to two exposed points of the 300-Ohm ribbon, about 10 centimetres above the lower end as, described above.

This might indeed work straight off. However, if the SWR was found to be too high, then successive feed points would need to be tried until a satisfactory SWR was attained. All this soldering and unsoldering can take time and result in a bit of a mess. The antenna, described here, allows for ease of SWR adjustment, and results in a much neater end product.

In this version of the Slim Jim, I used only a 131 centimetre length of twin slotted 300-

Ohm ribbon. Two lengths of coat hanger wire made up the remainder of the antenna length. I carefully removed two centimetres of insulation from both conductors at each end of the length of ribbon cable. The strands were twisted for strength and at one end the two exposed conductors were twisted together and soldered. The two exposed conductors at the other end were connected into a twin plastic connector block, as shown in the attached photograph.

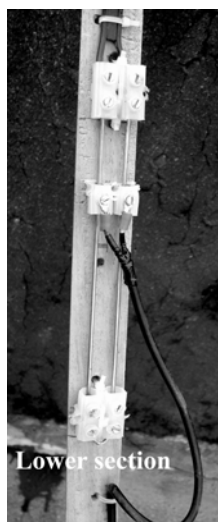
I then cut two 25 centimetre straight lengths of metal coat hanger wire, and connected each length into the plastic connector block, so that each length made a good electrical connection with the 300-Ohm ribbon. It is important to ensure that these connections are sound, especially as the delicate stranded wire from the ribbon cable can break easily, or may not be secured tightly at the screw terminal. Check that the screws are actually holding the coat hanger wires and the ends of the ribbon cable in place.

The block connectors come in a bar of ten or so. I broke off two more sets of two. I hack-sawed one twin block in half, in such a manner that I was cutting across the metal and not just through the plastic between. I discarded one half. This left me with a block with only two screw connectors. I slid this onto the parallel coat hanger wires next. Finally, I slid on the remaining twin-connector and slightly tightened it.

To support the antenna, I bought a thin strip of wood, approximately the same width as the ribbon cable. This was about three metres long. I secured the ribbon and the first twin connector to this strip using plastic cable ties, through drilled holes, leaving about five centimetres of timber clear at the top. About three centimetres below the top of the strip of wood, I drilled a small hole through which I inserted a long cable tie (string would also do). The purpose of this is to keep the antenna in place by wedging the plastic cable tie or string between the sealing cap and the pipe.

From the top of the ribbon cable, I measured down 147 centimetres and marked the timber at that point with a pencil. The two ends of coat hanger wires were snipped at the same point and the uncut twin connector block slid into place so that its lower edge was aligned with the pencil mark. A small U-shaped piece of wire was used to short across both terminals of

(Continued on page 9)



(Continued from page 8)

this connector block at the pencil mark. This terminal block was then secured to the timber with a cable tie.

The sawn connector block was positioned about ten centimetres above the pencil mark. The 50-Ohm coaxial feeder cable is attached to this connector block.

At a point 48 centimetres above the pencil mark, I snipped and removed about two centimetres from one side of the ribbon cable, creating a small gap (see photograph). All that remained then was to prepare the coaxial cable connection and adjust the antenna for lowest possible SWR ratio. The SWR ratio is adjusted by sliding the coaxial cable connector block up or down the coat hanger wires.

I removed the two screws from the coaxial twin connector block and filed away the two protective circular flanges until they were flush with the block surface. I prepared a suitable length of 50-Ohm coaxial cable (about four metres long) by stripping back about seven centimetres of outer insulation at one end. I unravelled the braid, cut off most of it, leaving just a sufficient amount exposed to solder a short length of insulated flexible wire to. I then wrapped insulating tape around the soldered joint.

I then cut the newly-soldered wire flush with end of the centre of the coaxial cable. I stripped back a short length of insulation from each wire and soldered on two eyelet connectors (car accessory shop). Instead of eyelets, two circular loops of wire could be formed at the ends of the wires. Each eyelet was then screwed down onto the surface of the block connector (see photograph).

It is important to remember that the centre wire of the coaxial cable must connect to the unbroken side of the antenna. The braid must connect to the gapped or broken side. I tightened the screws, ensuring that the eyelets made good and tight connections. If the eyelets had still been loose when the screws were fully tightened, then I would have used washers to remedy this.

I temporarily installed the antenna inside the pipe, making sure that it was supported by the cable tie wedged between the cap and the pipe. I was careful not to fit the cap too tightly, as it can be difficult to remove. I cut the protruding coaxial cable about 15 centimetres below the bottom of the pipe and fitted a PL-259 connector.

I used a few cable ties to secure the coaxial cable to the strip of wood, which I cut about 15 centimetres shorter than the length of the pipe. This allowed space, within the pipe, for storage of the SO-239 con-



ductor and coaxial cable when the bottom cap is in place. Some slack needs to be left on the coaxial cable to allow for adjustment up and down of the feed point connector over the length of the coat hanger wires.

The antenna with the connector blocks just about fitted inside the pipe. The size of the connector blocks (10 Ampere rating, I think) meant that the blocks made contact with the inner surface of the pipe, preventing the antenna from rattling around inside. If I had used smaller blocks, I would have wrapped insulation tape around them to achieve the same result.

It was now time to test the antenna for SWR. Having an antenna analyser was a great help. The pipe is about three metres long, the surplus length acting as a mast. I stood the lower end of the pipe into the parasol aperture of my plastic patio table, clear of the ground, metallic objects and myself. I set the antenna analyser to 145.0 MHz. The SWR read about 1.8:1 with the coaxial feeder connected 10 centimetres above the pencil mark. This was an encouraging start.

I made all further SWR adjustments with the antenna taped to the outside of the pipe. This saved having to remove it for before carrying out adjustments. It was only when I was satisfied with the SWR reading that I reinstalled the antenna permanently inside the pipe.

By simply loosening the feed point connector and altering its position up and down, I eventually settled on a position which gave an SWR reading of 1.2:1.

This point was about six centimetres above the pencil mark. I tightened both connections at that point. If you haven't access to an antenna analyser, you will have to test the SWR with a suitable SWR meter and a two-metre transmitter.

I screwed the PL-259 connector into a male to female adapter, which in effect terminates the antenna with an inline SO-239 socket. This accommodates the PL-259 connector on the end of the coaxial cable running back to the transceiver 20 metres away. I wrapped the (antenna) PL-259 and one external thread of the adaptor with self-amalgamating tape, to prevent ingress of moisture and for joint soundness.

I then inserted the antenna inside the pipe and rechecked the SWR reading. It was fine. I pushed the timber strip right to the top of the pipe, and secured it there by trapping the cable tie between the pipe and the plastic cap, which I now pushed home fully.

When the antenna is not in use, the coaxial SO-239 connector and cable are recessed inside the pipe and a plastic cap fitted to the bottom (not too tightly). This fully seals and weatherproofs the antenna and connector.

For a permanent installation, the coaxial cable from the rig



(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

could be connected directly to the antenna connector block. The cable could be threaded through a suitably sized hole in the lower sealing cap, fitted with a weatherproof rubber grommet or sleeve. Alternatively, the hole in the cap could simply be sealed with silicone or rubber compound.

The circular roof of the Martello tower has a parapet about 1.2 metres high, and the diameter of the roof is about five metres. Around the parapet, at roof level, are four iron rings that were formerly used as part of a gun emplacement. At the moment the Slim Jim is just placed into one of these rings and wedged there by a plastic bottle filled with tap water! In the near future, I intend screwing four cup hooks into the pipe, near the top, and attaching four lengths of nylon rope (perhaps with bungee-type straps at one end) between the hooks and the iron rings, so that the antenna can stand supported by these stays in the centre of the roof.

I am sure that there must be many other ideas and suggestions for improvements to this Slim Jim out there. I would love to hear of any. This article relates my own ideas and experiences in building this version of the Slim Jim. It works very well indeed from the Martello Tower Museum location in Howth (EIOMAR).

Unfortunately, the Martello Tower is shielded, in a radio sense, by Howth Head from much of Dublin City. Despite this, we get consistently good two-metre reports from around the city, and R2 comes in at a good 5 and 7. For this installation, a simple but easily erected and stored antenna was required. This version of the Slim Jim fits the bill very well. It could serve well as a portable or even as a permanent antenna.

From my own experience, the Slim Jim easily outperforms a dipole. But, perhaps its greatest advantage is its very low angle of radiation in all directions. It was fun and cheap to build. And if I hear of anybody spending big money on a commercially made Slim Jim..... Now! No! Stop! Don't get me started! Next thing we'll hear is that G5RV antennas are actually being bought! Perish the thought!

73 de Tony EI5EM

ei5em@eircom.net www.qsl.net/ei5em
www.qsl.net/ei5em/museum.html

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Peter I

Press Release #2006-4

Date: November 13, 2005



From: Team co-leaders:

Ralph Fedor, KØIR and Bob Allphin, K4UEE

Since our last announcement much has been accomplished toward our goal of activating Peter I early next year.

In September, fourteen of the team met for four days in Atlanta to practice erecting the arctic shelters, the low band antennas, check out the generators and other critical equipment and to begin packing the crates for shipment. In

addition, a total of ten hours were spent in classrooms discussing safety, offloading procedures and priorities, fundraising, recruiting, our current budget and the status of our vessel and helicopter arrangements. There was also time for team bonding, as we assimilated three new team members: FM5CD, N6JRL and W8MV.

During the month of October, we received the great news that Gary Stouder, K9SG, our team physician from the 2005 team would be able to join us again. Also, Al Hernandez, K3VN, a veteran of many Antarctic DXpeditions and an old friend has joined the team. We are pleased to have them both and they bring our number to twenty men. We have room for two more operators and as many as four "other" travellers who may want to go along, set foot on the island, help with the camp set-up, enjoy the travel experience, but not actually be part of the operating team. They would remain on the vessel. Contact Bob, K4UEE by visiting the website.

Our 40 foot shipping container has been packed and is now on its way to Chile. After returning from South America earlier this year, we completely unpacked everything, sorted, prioritised all of our equipment and then repacked. It was a huge job, but it will be worth the effort when we arrive at Peter I. The container contains exactly 11 tons of equipment, and personal gear.

Our contract calls for 16 days at Peter I. The weather will dictate our actual schedule, but we are projecting that we will be 12-14 days on the air. We have developed a quick strike plan that will enable two stations on the air quickly even if we have weather conditions that prevent the entire camp from being constructed immediately. Ultimately, we plan to have nine stations on the air and a complement of 23 antennas. This doesn't include the recent decision to make a real effort on 6m, 2m and 70cm EME.

For the first time, we can give approximate dates of our operation. The team will assemble in Punta Arenas on Jan. 29th and shortly afterward, fly to the Chilean Naval Base on King George Island, South Shetland Islands. We will board our vessel there and sail to Peter I. We expect to have two stations on the air from the vessel operating.... /MM. We hope to arrive at Peter I around February 6th to begin our 16 day stay. Please remember that these dates are approximate and depend on many variables including, of course, the weather and sea ice conditions.

One of our goals is to do what we can to help the DX community feel a part of this 3Y0X experience. We're going to be enjoying a once in a lifetime adventure, and although it will at times be tough and maybe a little scary, the adventure is something that motivates every member of our team. We want you, the DX community, to enjoy more than just a QSO or two, but to be able to live this adventure along with us. In an effort to do that, we are planning daily updates from the island along with photographs of what we are experiencing. In addition, through the technology of Iridium Satellite, we are hoping to provide periodic videos from the island as well. It seems to us that through video you can experience so much more.

This may be the most expensive DXpedition ever. We solicit your support!

Please check out the Peter I website, www.peterone.com and catch up on the news.

There are many pictures of our recent training session in Atlanta and of the container packing and shipping. Also, if you want to be a part of the adventure by contributing financially, click on one of the yellow "Contribute" buttons.

QSL via N200!

73,

Ralph, KØIR and Bob, K4UEE

Fingal Radio Club AGM

Fingal Radio Club (EI2FRC) held it's AGM on Monday October 24th 2005 at it's club rooms in Erin's Isle GAA Complex in Finglas.

The outgoing committee were re-elected,

Chairman: Chris Yeates EI7AAB,

Treasurer: Sean Linehan EI7CV,

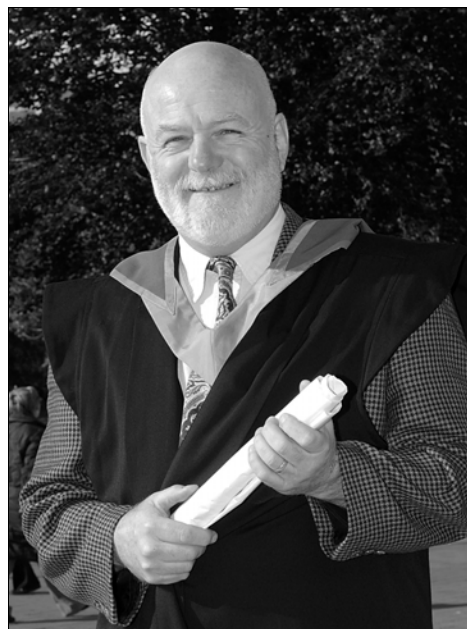
Secretary: Aidan Murphy EI5HW.

The George Stritch Memorial Award is awarded each year to a club member who in the eyes of the majority of club members, has shown or given exemplary and or exceptional service to the club over the previous 12 months. It also may be awarded to a person who in the eyes of the current members has served the club over many years in an unselfish and caring manner. This year the award was presented to Aidan Murphy EI5HW.



Chris Yeates EI7AAB (left) presenting the George Stritch Memorial Shield to Aidan Murphy EI5HW.

Photo: Sean Linehan EI7CV



Joseph Leahy, EI5GE, Barnlough, Ban-sha, Co, Tipperary who was conferred with a diploma in Field Ecology at U.C.C.

Picture: Mike Hoare



Fingal Members Oct. 2005

Some of the members of Fingal Radio Club who attended the recent AGM:

Front: Andy Earley EI4ERB

2nd row: George Moran

EI7EC, Tom O' Donnell EI4Z,

Johnny Maloney EI1CY

Back Row: Liam Murphy

EI3HK, Harry Boyle EI9BW

Standing: Gerry Birkhead

EI9DZ

Photo: Sean Linehan EI7CV.

Nuacht as Gaeilge

Tá an Nuacht as Gaeilge aistrithe go 3.680MHz ar 80m. Éist gach Dómhach ag 11.30h am aitiúil.

The News in Irish has moved to 3.680MHz on 80m.

Listen every Sunday at 1130 local time.

Morse Test Proficiency Team (Northern Ireland)

Although compulsory Morse tests are now a thing of the past, the Morse Test Proficiency Team (Northern Ireland), offer proficiency assessments at 5, 12 and 20 words per minute.

Other speeds may be offered on request. These assessments are purely voluntary and open to **anyone** with an interest in Morse.

If you are interested in taking an assessment you should contact Jim Henry, GI0DVU by telephone on 048 9266 2270 or by e-mail to

jim.henry@ntlworld.com

A small fee of £10 sterling is payable to cover expenses and certificates are awarded to those who successfully achieve the required standard.

73 de Jim, GI0DVU

www.qsl.net/gi0dву

IO64xm



Denise Lyons, EI3DZB was married to Kenneth McDermott in Rome on Saturday 8th October '05.

Denise is one of four licensed experimenters in the Lyons family from Swords in Co. Dublin..

She is the daughter of Charlie EI2EM and Mary EI2FT and sister of John EI2FEB.

Photo, left to right shows: Julie, Dave, Paul, Mary EI2FT, Kenneth, Denise EI3DZB, Charlie EI2EM and John EI2FEB.

Dave and Julie are getting married in January 2006 at which time they will all be travelling to New Zealand for the wedding.

SuitSat to operate on 145.990 MHz To be launched from the I.S.S. around Dec. 8th

By the time you read this signals should be available from SuitSat, the most unusual Amateur Radio satellite ever orbited.

SuitSat amateur radio equipment is installed inside a surplus Russian Orlan spacesuit. It will become an independently orbiting satellite once it is deployed by the crew of the International Space Station during an extravehicular activity, tentatively planned around December 8, 2005.

Running only on internal batteries within the spacesuit, SuitSat will have a limited, but interesting lifetime beaming down special messages and an SSTV image as it floats in space.

Having no external thrust to adjust its orbit after it is hand-deployed during the EVA, SuitSat will be in a free-floating,

The photo on the right shows the modules that were carried aloft to the ISS on a Progress resupply mission that docked with on September 10, 2005. SuitSat's transmissions will include special international voice messages, spacesuit telemetry, and a pre-programmed SSTV picture on its 145.990 MHz FM downlink.

If you have already received the packet station or heard the ISS crew on 2-meter voice, then you already have most of what you need.

Amateur radio signals from the ISS can be received with a 2 meter vertical antenna so an elaborate tracking system is not necessary.

The SSTV signal can be decoded with personal computer SSTV software after you connect your computer to the speaker output of your radio.

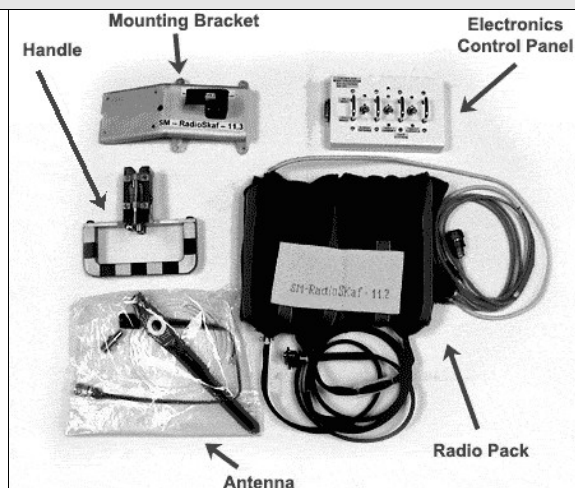
The picture bottom right shows SuitSat in it's flight configuration. You can see the electronics control panel on the top of the helmet along with the SuitSat antenna.

A new handle has been added around the midsection of the suit (black stripes). The handle

is an important addition that will allow the astro/cosmonaut launching the suit to move it safely.

Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, AMSAT Vice President of Human Spaceflight, and ARISS Chairman, says SuitSat's payload will also include a CD containing hundreds of school pictures, artwork, poems, and student signatures from schools all over the world--Japan/Asia, Europe, Russia, Canada, US, South America and Africa.

Frank continues, "Two identical CDs were flown into space. One will go in the suit, and the other will be for the crew to review. Using the crew CD, we hope to downlink these images using the SSTV system that will be located inside the Zvezda Service Module aboard the ISS once it is operational."



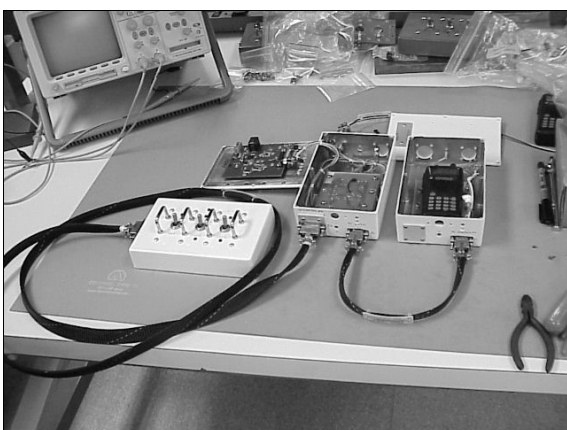
Direct SSTV operation from the ISS will commence once the computer arrives in a future cargo delivery.

AMSAT Video News features Frank, KA3HDO, in a SuitSat presentation. See:

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/information/videoNews.php>

ARISS is an international educational outreach with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA. [Thanks to JoAnne Maenpaa WB9JEJ and Emily Clarke W0EEC. SuitSat photographs by Steve Bible N7HPR and used by permission. EVA Photograph courtesy of NASA.]

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but decaying orbit around Earth. It is expected to remain in orbit up to 6 weeks after being deployed.

The ARISS-Russia team headed by Sergei Samburov, RV3DR, first came up with the idea for SuitSat, and the concept was initially discussed extensively during the joint AMSAT Symposium/ARISS International Team meeting in October 2004.

See the 2004 Symposium Updates for additional background information.

The project--called Radioskaf or Radio Sputnik was led by project manager A. P. Alexandrov and Deputy Project Manager A. Poleshuk from RSC Energia. On the US side, AMSAT Board member Lou McFadin, W5DID headed up the hardware project development.

The SuitSat electronics were built and tested in Phoenix, Arizona by a team lead by Steve Bible, N7HPR.

The photo above shows the systems laid out for bench integration.



Student Corner

The second IRTS-run Radio Theory Examination will be held in the ComReg premises in Dublin on 16th January 2006. On this occasion the Examination will, for the first time, be in multiple choice format.

Many people subscribe to the view that multiple choice examinations are easier to pass than the traditional essay type. After all, the answer is always going to be one of the four options given to you on the paper.

Therefore you have a four to one or 25% chance of getting it correct. It's simple really!

Unfortunately, things are not as simple as they seem. Experiments have shown that guesswork alone has a very low probability of getting you past a 60% pass mark. Therefore you need to do some work if you intend sitting this or any other multiple choice paper!

Now that you have made the WORK resolution, in this, and future, issues of Echo Ireland, I will try to offer some tips to help you in your studies.

Firstly, let's look at the examination itself. It is based on the HAREC syllabus used in most CEPT countries, and it consists of 60 questions that must be answered in 2 hours.

The pass mark, as already stated is 60%, so you must answer at least 36 questions correctly.

The Paper consists of three main sections with each section divided into sub-sections. It is geared to examine the student's knowledge of a broad range of the syllabus. Concentrating study on certain sections, while ignoring other areas, is high risk, while depending on a vague general knowledge is dicing with failure!

The full examination details are as follows:

Section A – Elementary Theory of Radio Communications (35 Questions)

- Electrical and Electronic Principles and Circuits – 12 Questions
- Transmitters and Receivers – 10 Questions
- Feeders and Antennas – 5 Questions
- Propagation – 4 Questions
- Measurements – 4 Questions

Section B – National and International Rules and Operating Procedures (14 Questions)

- Licensing Conditions - (7 Questions)
- Operating Rules and Procedures – (7 Questions)

Section C – Safety and Electromagnetic Compatibility (11 Questions)

- Electromagnetic Compatibility - (4 Questions)
- Transmitter Interference - (4 Questions)
- Safety – (3 Questions)

The 60% Pass requirement applies to the Examination as a whole and it is not necessary to pass each, or any, of the individual Sections.

The area where the “vague general knowledge” is usually relied upon in Section B.

The student applies himself/herself diligently to the technical areas but believes he/she can tackle Section B without any serious work.

Let see how this works in relation to the Sample Paper:

Questions 36 to 42 are all taken directly from a small number of ComReg documents. The correct answers are all in the precise terminology set out in those documents.

For instance in Question 40, options B, C, or D could be held to be correct.

However, the form of words in option C, “The licensee, any suitably qualified person or any person operating under the direct supervision of the licensee” is taken directly from Com-Reg documentation.

To score well in this Sub-Section, it is essential that any serious student be familiar with the current ComReg regulations and documentation.

The documents in question are:

1. Wireless Telegraphy (Experimenter's Licence) Regulations 2002 (Statutory Instrument Number – SI No 450 of 2002). This may be purchased from the Government Publications Office or downloaded from the website of the Office of the Attorney General www.attorneygeneral.ie
2. Radio Experimenter Licence- Guidance Notes (Document 02/05 R5)
3. Particular's of Experimenter's Station (Document 02/77 R3)

These latter two documents may be obtained from ComReg by post or downloaded from the ComReg website: www.comreg.ie

Questions 43 to 49 relate to the nitty gritty of operating. Again, the ComReg documents are essential. Questions 48 and 49 use classic ComReg terminology in the correct answers (D and C respectively).

You should be familiar with the Band Plan applicable to Ireland, in which case you will know that 14.000 – 14.060 MHz is a CW only segment of that Band.

Question 45 asks you to identify which country is allocated the prefix LA. Guesswork will never give you the correct answer – Norway – so you need to be comfortable with the main country prefixes. Watch for those that don't match the initial letter of the country – SP (Poland), SV (Greece), CT (Portugal), VE (Canada) etc.

You can always expect a question on the Q code, but then, you know that, don't you? Yes, QRZ? means “who is calling me”, but what about all the others. Remember, there are only a relatively small number that matter, but you need to know them!

I hope that this short piece has given you some ideas as to what to expect if you intend to sit the Radio Theory Examination in the near future. Remember it's not a pushover. It is an effort to examine a candidate's knowledge of the Syllabus across a wide range and you will not pass unless you do, at least some, work

In future issues, I will return to the sample paper and look at some of the technical questions in Sections A and C.

In the meantime, good luck with the study! .

Response to Consultation

Review of fees applicable to Rights of Use for Radio Frequencies

Document No. 5/89

December 7th 2005

ComReg recently issued its response to the Consultation Paper entitled "Review of Fees applicable to Rights of Use for Radio Frequencies".

This new paper has significant implications for the EI experimenter community and promises a new licensing regime commencing in 2006.

IRTS is pleased that most of the points raised in its submission have been accepted by ComReg and incorporated into the amended document.

What follows is an extract from ComReg document 5/89 as published on their website on December 7th 2005.

We only show the sections relating to radio experimenters.

See www.comreg.ie for the full text.

Q. 1. Are there other factors, not mentioned above, that ComReg should take into account when considering the optimal use of radio spectrum and the setting of spectrum fees?

5.1.2 Views of Respondents

There were three responses to this question.

One network operator suggested that ComReg should attempt to increase regulatory certainty by clarifying its policymaking approach and establishing transparent, objective criteria for current and future reform of the spectrum management and licensing regime.

Another network operator suggested that the benefits of international standards should be considered in relation to the introduction of new technologies.

An experimenter highlighted the socio-economic and societal benefits arising from experimenters' use of radio.

These included educational benefits to young people, benefits to industry in terms of supporting availability of radio expertise and the value of amateur radio as a leisure activity, especially for those of all ages and fitness levels.

5.8 Proposed Fees and Licensing Regime for Radio Experimenters

5.8.1 Summary of Consultation Topic

The consultation document made a number of proposals relating to Experimenters' licences and fees, namely:

- Amendment of existing Experimenters' licences, including Repeater licences, to a lifetime licence, at the time of next renewal, for a fee of €30.
- A once-off fee of €100 for all new Experimenters' radio licences, including Repeater licences, which will be lifetime licences.
- Subject to notification to ComReg and a payment of €30, Experimenters may make use of the extension bands and modes of emissions as outlined in the Experimenter's handbook, on a non-protected, non-interference basis.
- In order for a Licensee to maintain their lifetime Experimenters' licence, the Licensee must confirm their

licence details with ComReg every 5 years or the licence will expire.

- Upgrading of an Experimenters' licence, e.g. from Class 2 to Class 1, and the establishment of special event stations shall be subject to a fee of €30.
- Short-term Experimenter Licences issued to visitors shall be subject to a once-off fee of €30 and a maximum duration of 3 months.

Q. 23. What are your views on the proposed licensing scheme for Experimenters' radio licences and associated fees?

There were 21 responses to Question 23.

Nine were explicitly supportive of the proposal for lifetime licences, whereas only one disagreed, on the grounds that the database of experimenters maintained by ComReg could become out of date.

Six respondents were in favour of the proposed fees, whilst seven expressed concern about some aspects of the proposal. The main concern raised was in relation to the initial fee of €100 for new licensees.

One respondent acknowledged that the proposed fees would save licensees money but felt that it would be better to spread the payment, for example by charging an initial €20 followed by a further €80 after five years.

A similar view was expressed by another respondent, who suggested either five annual payments of €20 or a €30 fee on each of the first four 5-year reviews. Three other respondents suggested lower once-off fees of between €20 and €40.

Three respondents suggested that fees should be reduced for certain groups such as students, those who are retired or unwaged or people with disabilities.

Another suggested following the recent UK proposals.

Respondents were broadly in agreement with the proposal to require licensees to confirm their licence details every five years, however ten of the thirteen who expressed a view thought that some provision should be made by ComReg to remind licensees of this requirement prior to the five year deadline.

Three respondents requested that the reminder should be sent by both post and e-mail. One respondent suggested the reminder should go out six months before the five-year deadline, whereas another suggested a common date should be adopted for all reminders, so that this could be publicised among the experimenter community.

One respondent felt that five years seemed rather long and that this could be reduced to three years without any increased administrative burden by using the existing online facility and PIN number. Another was concerned that renewal reminders might not always be delivered and suggested that licensees be able to reactivate licences by confirming licence details to ComReg even after expiry.

One respondent queried whether licensees whose licences expired would be required to undertake the experimenters' exam a second time or would be issued with a new call sign.

All seven respondents who commented on the status of extension bands thought that these should be automatically included

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

in the standard licence. One respondent queried whether under the proposal if all the extension bands are notified simultaneously a single fee would apply or whether each band would be treated a separate notification for fee purposes. This respondent also expressed concern about whether in future primary amateur bands would continue to be protected from interference and whether licensees would be able to avail of ComReg's services in the event of interference, having paid the once-off fee.

Of the seven respondents who commented on the proposal regarding different modes of experimenter operations, one was supportive and four thought that all modes should automatically be included in the standard licence. Two suggested that modes should be declared in general terms in the licence, with restrictions on maximum modulation bandwidth rather than exact emissions designators. This would remove the need for any newly developed modes to require explicit ComReg approval.

Three respondents commented on the proposed fee for special events. One was supportive but thought that a fee should only apply once where a station is activated on a number of occasions. Two thought that licences for these events should be free. Two respondents suggested that automatic maritime mobile privileges should be included in experimenter licences, citing the UK Class A licence as an example of where this is the case.

Q. 24. What are your views on the 3 month maximum duration of a short term Experimenters' licence issued to visitors?

There were twelve responses to question 24.

Four were in favour of the proposal, though one of these felt that a licence should not be required for visitors from countries that have implemented CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01. Six respondents felt that the maximum duration of the visitors' licence should be longer than the three months proposed. Five of these felt that twelve months would be appropriate. The sixth thought that the three month temporary licence should be renewable at least once, though not indefinitely. One respondent thought that the visitors' licence should be issued for the specified dates of the visit for licensees from jurisdictions outside CEPT, whilst another thought that visitors should have the option of acquiring a lifetime licence, subject to informing ComReg of the time periods when they will be operating in the country.

Q. 25. Are there any alternative approaches that you think should be considered?

One respondent suggested that some of the administrative burden of authorising specialised applications might be transferred to a body such as the IRTS, under delegated authority with procedures and rules set by ComReg. Another suggested that to reduce further the administrative burden each club and repeater group could be allocated a pool of call signs that could be used for recurring special events without the need to apply to ComReg. Any special events requiring call signs outside this allocated pool would be subject to the normal application process.

5.8.3 ComReg's Position

ComReg welcomes the keen interest shown in the proposals

by the experimenter community and in particular the constructive nature of many of the suggestions made.

ComReg has considered the representations made and has identified a number of areas where the proposed licensing regime and fee structure could be refined to ensure the benefits arising from the sector are maximised whilst covering ComReg's administrative cost.

ComReg is therefore minded to proceed with the proposal as outlined in the consultation document, but with the following further provisos:

i) As per the consultation proposal, lifetime experimenter licences will be issued for repeaters, clubs and individuals. The fee for new applications is €100 with the exception that a reduced fee of €30 will be charged to an individual who is over 65 years of age or to people in receipt of a disability allowance.

ii) Visitors holding a valid amateur radio licence issued in a country that has signed up to CEPT T/R 61-01 will be permitted to operate without a national licence.

iii) Visitors' permits will continue to be required for licensed experimenters who do not hold a CEPT amateur radio licence issued in a country that has signed up to CEPT T/R 61-01 and this will be valid for a period of up to twelve months, at a cost of €30.

iv) Experimenter licences issued under the proposed new scheme will be valid for all modes and frequency bands relevant to the class of licence held. Previously, an individual application was required for use of each non-standard extension (e.g. 70 MHz).

v) In addition to a once-off special event licence valid for €30 for a period of 12 months, ComReg will also make available a special events licence for recurring events (e.g. an annual event) subject to a once off fee of €100.

vi) Existing entitlements to protection from harmful interference, according to the primary or secondary nature of specific frequency bands, will be maintained under the new scheme.

ComReg wishes to remind radio experimenters that any duly qualified radio amateur may obtain a licence and permanent EI (Irish) callsign for operation of a station located within the Irish Republic. Such a licence (and callsign) is valid so long as the station address remains within Ireland and both it and a correspondence address are notified every 5 years.

Regarding the 5 year notification process, ComReg believes that there is merit in having a set period, e.g. a one month period once every 5 years, for this process.

The notification process is applicable to all lifetime licences (individual, club and repeater) and any recurring special event licence.

ComReg will specify a set date by which all experimenters will be required to confirm their licence details.

ComReg will endeavour to send reminders to licensees, prior to each five-yearly notification date and will take other appropriate steps to publicise the requirement with due notice, how-

(Continued on page 16)

ever the onus will lie with the licensee to ensure notification is received by ComReg in sufficient time for the licence to remain valid beyond the notification date. If an experimenter radio licence is cancelled after this process, a new licence may be obtained upon payment of the full fee for a new licence, unless the licensee is in one of the categories identified above as qualifying for a reduced fee. In these cases, it will not be necessary to re-sit the experimenters' exams, however ComReg cannot guarantee the continued availability of the call-sign assigned to the expired licence.

ComReg proposes to introduce the new scheme in mid 2006.

Guidelines in relation to the changes outlined above will also be introduced at that time.

6 Next Steps

ComReg will now proceed with the preparation of new regulations and updating existing regulations for the approval of the Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources with a view to introducing the new proposals in 2006.

Respondents

The following responded to the consultation document 5/58.

Brendan Minish
Dan Lloyd
Daniel Cussen
Daniel F Campbell
David Court
Eamonn Phelan
Eamonn Quinn
Eircom
Francis Fahy
Department of Justice
Hugh Forde and The Two Counties DX-Cluster Group
IRTS
Joe Bannon
John
John Corless
Keith Martin
Maritime Safety Directorate
Mayo Radio Experimenters Network
Meteor
Michael McCann
Padraig Baines
Paul Kearney
Philip Pollock
Sean Carvin
Tom Kelly
Vodafone

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

EI6SI was QRV for the 48th International Jamboree On The Air from the 1st Port of Waterford Sea Scouts in Waterford City on Saturday the 15th of October last. This was again a successful event and Scouts made use of 2 metres, HF and APRS. John (EI7IG) also gave a demonstration of Satellite Operation.

SEARG extends its thanks to Nicky (EI3JB), John (EI7IG), Gareth (EI7FZB) and John (EI8JA) for their hard work and participation in making the event a success and would also like to thank the 1st Port of Waterford Sea Scouts for their help and assistance.

The Waterford Rally took place in the McEniff Ard Ri on Sunday the 16th of October last. This was even more successful than the previous year's event. Many thanks to the traders, IRTS, AREN and of course all the Experimenters who came along on the day to support the event.

The club would like to extend special Thanks to Michael Hoban (EI5DCB) for organising and co-ordinating the rally.

Contest Calendar

December 2005

17th	0000-2400	OK DX RTTY Contest	RTTY
17th	0000-2359	RAC Canada Winter Contest	CW/SSB
17th	2100-2300	Russian 160m Contest	CW/SSB
17/18th	1400-1400	Croatian Contest	CW
17/18th	1500-1500	Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge	CW

January 2006

1st	0000-2400	ARRL Straight Key Night	CW
2nd	1200-1500	IRTS 80m Counties Contest	CW/SSB
7th	2000-2300	EU 160m Contest	CW
8th	0400-0700	EU 160m Contest	CW
8th	0900-1059	German DARC 10m Contest	CW/SSB
7/8th	1800-2400	ARRL RTTY Roundup	Digital
21/22nd	1200-1200	Hungarian DX Contest	CW/SSB
28/29th	0000-2359	CQ 160m Contest	CW
28/29th	1200-1200	BARTG Sprint Contest	RTTY
28/29th	1300-1300	UBA DX Contest	SSB

February 2006

4/5th	0001-2359	10-10 International Winter QSO Party	SSB
4/5th	1800-1759	Mexico International RTTY Contest	RTTY
11/12th	0000-2359	CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	RTTY
11th	1100-1300	Asia/Pacific Spring Sprint	CW
11/12th	1200-1200	Dutch PACC Contest	CW/SSB
11/12th	2100-0100	RSGB 1.8MHz contest	CW
18/19th	0000-2400	ARRL International DX Contest	CW
24/25th	2100-2100	Russian PSK Worldwide Contest	PSK31
25/26th	0000-2359	CQ WW 160m Contest	SSB
25/26th	0600-1800	French REF Contest	SSB
25/26th	1300-1300	UBA DX Contest	CW
26th	0900-1100	High Speed Club CW Contest (1)	CW
26th	1500-1700	High Speed Club CW Contest (2)	CW

For details of smaller contests and links to contest rules and results try the following:

WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

SM3CER Contest Service <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/>

0N HAWAIIAN ISLANDS 1986
 4 EME 11 1986
 REPUBLICA ARGENTINA
 CONFIRMING QSO VIA EME. 015 FF754
 CONFIRMING QSO VIA EME. LOC. DEGRAS

TO RADIO	DATE	UTC	MHZ	WST	2 WAY
E14DR	22/6/96	2000	144	0° EW	

REC 0356 THX
 TOM: THANKS VERY MUCH FOR INFO + QSL CARD
 RIG AND FT8J7 + TRANS. PA 4CX250B5 = 1KW
 ANT. 4 X 14 ELE YAGI (1578V). FIRST #1/4
 144MHZ EME
 EDUARDO VAN OOTEGHEM 73E.
 UTM-MOCHUQUEN 2524
 800-970000-800000
 800-970000-800000
 ARGENTINA 121 16.8-5194 SORROBA ARGENTINA

LAKE PLACID, FLORIDA USA • WW LOCATOR EL 97hh

W4ZD

DXCC HONOR ROLL, 5 BAND DXCC, 144 MHz WAS
Nlc. TI2BEV Ex: W4CKB, W8CKB, K4VW, ZF1VW, DL/W4ZD, HB9/W4ZD

CONFIRMING GRID	YR	MO	DAY	UTC	MN	HR	SE	T	TWO-WAY
					CH				
EI4DQ Tom	93	6	24	2207	144	0	0		✓
					012	E	M	E	

73/DX de BEV, M. CAVENDER, W4ZD & TI2BEV
P.O. Box 88, Lake Placid, Florida 33852 USA

QSL
PSE TYN
✓

DL1HYX cfm qso /swl			
day	month	year	2 way
31	05	91	CW,SSB,FM RTTY-SSTV EME

utc	mhz	rst
07:00	14.175	000

TRX: 1C 2514
 Home made PA I BBT
 ANT: Dipol, Delta Loop, BEAM, GP
 ANT-VHF 810 HETem.
 QTH: LOC: J061AH DOK: W25
 OP: Ulrich Halusa
 Windmühlstraße 1
 06231 Bad Dürrenberg
 Germany

TO AMATEUR RADIO

EI° 402

Remarks:
 # call 146

PSE QSL via DARC
 or direct TX01

Vy 73 es best DX

OP: 146

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>JL1ZCG</p> <p>GRID PM95um</p> </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> <p>KAWASAKI JAPAN</p> <p>OK</p> </div> </div>				
<p>TO RADIO <u>EI4DX</u> , <u>Tom</u>, CONFIRMING OUR QSO</p>				
DATE	UTC	MHz	REPORT	2-WAY
<u>194-3-20</u>	<u>1313</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>CW</u> <u>EME</u>

[illegible]

DES CLARKE

3 P. O. Box 92
WEDDERBURN VIC
AUSTRALIA 3018

Phone: (054) 94 3156

G CFM QSO
WITH ...

144 EME

ITU 59
ZONE 30

QF13to

EMDC

PSE-TKS QSL

DAY	MTWTF	YEAR	TIME (UTC)	FREQUENCY	MODE	R	S	T
10	4	00	1100	144-094	CW	0	0	



Congratulations to Tom Cocking EI4DQ whose application for the Worked All Continents Award on 2 metres EME was approved by IRTS awards manager Sean Nolan EI7CD at a recent committee meeting.

Tom has been dedicated to Earth-Moon-Earth experiments since 1992 and has been keeping EI to the forefront in this technically challenging aspect of our hobby for many years.

On the 10th of December Tom worked 3V8SS for his DXCC entity number 72 on 144 MHz.
He has worked 40 US states.

Tom is currently using 4 x 10 element DK7ZB homebrew Yagis. The rig is an Icom IC-910 with a homebrew amplifier and the pre-amp is a homebrew cavity gas-fet. Both transmit and receive lines are 7/8" heliax and everything is controlled with a homebrew 4 channel sequencer.

Aiming the Yagis is achieved with a homebrew digital readout controller.



Listed below are the stations worked off the moon on 2 metres by Tom EI4DQ during the month of November.. They include 3 new DXCC entities in Mexico, Brazil and Guam. Did you get three new ones on HF during the month?

Callsign	Locator
XE2AT	DL81 (New DXCC)
DH3YAK	J031
ZS6WB	KG44
PY2SRB	GG48 (New DXCC)
UA4HAK	LO43
OZ1LPR	JO44
DL6BF	JO32
EA3DXU	JN11
K5GMX	FN31
IK1FJI	JN44
IK3MAC	JN55
K1KT	FN20
K1CA	FN42
WA8CLT	EN80
YU1CF	KN03
S54T	JN75
SV1BTR	KM17
UX3LV	KO70
LU6KK	FG73
HB9Q	JN47
W5UN	EL29
W3SZ	FN20
EA1YV	IN52
IK7EZN	JN90
RV9JD	MP80
AA1YN	FN43
YO9FRJ	KN34
NQ2O	FN13
DL7FF	JO61tj
PE2SVN	JO21
W7IUV	DN07
DH7FB/P	JO62
F6GRB	JN25
G0CUH	IO70
DH2UAK	JO71
S52LM	JN65
I6BQI	JN62
W8PAT	EN81
OK1YK	JN78
DL2NUD	JO63
PA3DZL	JO21
PA3FPQ	JO22
UA4AQL	LO20
LZ1DP	KN22
VK2KU	QF56
KG6DX	QK23 (New DXCC)
SM5IOT	JO99
F8PKC	JN38
PE1BTX	JO23
F1TE	JN36

Irish Radio Transmitters Society 2m Counties Contest - Autumn 2005

		QSOs	Counties	Points	Location
High Power Portable					
1	EI2WRC, South Eastern Amateur Radio Group	37	18	3185	CW
High Power Fixed					
1	EI2HI, Hugh O'Donnell	45	15	2175	CK
Low Power Portable					
1	EI7GY, Joe Ryan	45	16	2752	WW
2	EI7T, Tipperary Amateur Radio Group	23	13	1625	KK
Low Power Fixed					
1	EI4HS, John Kelly	38	15	2070	KE
2	EI7HT, Tom McGrath	27	11	869	DD
FM Only					
1	EI2SBC/P, Shannon Basin Radio Group (EI8IU op)	44	23	4968	LD
2	EI4HX, Peter Grant	30	19	3002	CN
3	EI2GLB, Trevor Dunne	20	12	1248	WH

Check logs received with thanks from John EI3JD, Brendan EI3GV and Charles EI5FK

CW Field Day 2005 Results

Open Section

EI7M/P	504	1611
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Restricted Section

1	EI3Z/P	503	1606
2	EI7GY/P	330	1094
3	EI5GE/P	213	444
4	EI1C/P	119	356

Operators:

EI7M/P - EI9HC & EI4BZ operated from Co. Meath.

EI5GE operated from Co. Tipperary

EI7GY operated from Co. Meath.

EI3Z/P - EI8IU, EI3HA, EI8DL, EI4CF operated from Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

EI1C/P - EI4JF, EI1CS, EI4IS, EI6JA operated from Kinsale, Co. Cork.

VHF/UHF Field Day 2005

Open Section

QSOs/Pts

	50 MHz	70 MHz	144 MHz	432MHz	1296 MHz
EI9E	360/411,101	17/7,086	320/134,761	30/25,891	22/8,595
Total Points	587,435				

Restricted Section

EI7T 58 QSOs & 27,893 points.

WRTC 2006

The next World Radio Team Championships will be held in Brazil in conjunction with the IARU Contest next July.

This time the team selections are more transparent and are based on contest results over the past three years.

The WRTC-2006 committee have released a Contest Results Checking System for all contests allowed for WRTC-2006 applications. It is not a automated submission Web page, only a score listing database with some special filters.

The committee kindly asks the competitors to navigate through the tool and to submit any suggestions to the Web page's author SM0CXU at thomascarl@gmail.com or PY2YP at py2yp@py2yp.ws.

On the WRTC-2006 home page <http://www.wrtc2006.com> click on the banner "Contest Results Checking System". Ben DL6FBL reports that if Internet Explorer has trouble with the Web page or the application, try logging directly into the actual host location, <http://www.ictecsolutions.com.br/wrtc2006>.

Reservations are now open for the Headquarters Hotel for WRTC 2006.

Go to the WRTC-2006 page <http://www.wrtc2006.com> and click the "Costao do Santinho" banner for reservations. You also can go directly to the reservation Web address at <http://www.costao.com.br/versoes/ingles/reservas/reservas.php>. The rates are US \$85 per person per day including 3 (three) meals, breakfast, lunch and dinner. In the window "package" you should choose your preferred option. As in past events, there will be a special package for the referees and teams.

In order to keep applicants and the contest community aware of the status of submitted applications an applications-received list is available on the WRTC-2006 home page, <http://www.wrtc2006.com> or directly from PY2YP's Web site at <http://www.py2yp.ws/wrtcapp.htm>.

Mayo Radio Experimenters Network

The following officers were elected at the 2005 AGM of the Mayo Radio Experimenters Network.

Chairperson: Jimmy Kelly EI2GCB
Secretary: John Corless EI7IQ
Treasurer: John McAndrew EI3JM

PRO and Club Newsletter Editor is Brendan Minish EI6IZ.

Rally Director: Padraic Baynes EI9JA

Short Wave Magazine to merge with Radio Active

The end of an era will occur in January 2006 when the long-running UK publication for radio hobbyists, Short Wave Magazine, ceases publication as a separate title and merges with another magazine from the same publisher, Radio Active. The new magazine will be known as Radio User. This will not affect the company's flagship amateur radio publication, Practical Wireless.

Practical Wireless Strides Towards 75 Years!

From Rob Mannion , Editor of PW:

With thanks to the website/newsgroup operators - and anyone else who enjoys PW - I'm pleased to confirm (following enquires from readers and others) that Practical Wireless is not effected by the merger of our other two radio titles Short Wave Magazine and Radio Active.

As a dedicated Amateur Radio title PW is in a class of its own! We're striding towards our 75th anniversary and looking well into the future.

Anyone wishing to enquire about Short Wave Magazine is invited to contact the owners (my publishers) directly at; PW Publishing Ltd. Arrowsmith Court, Station Approach, Broadstone Dorset BH18 8PW.

My best wishes to everyone, and please don't hesitate to contact me directly via - rob@pwpublishing.ltd.uk - for anything regarding Practical Wireless. I'll be pleased to help.

Rob G3XFD/EI5IW

VHF/UHF Squares Table 2005

Callsign	50 MHz	70 MHz	144 MHz	432 MHz	1296 MHz	Totals
EI5FK	278	0	177	20	0	475
EI2JD	206	3	6	0	0	215
EI3IO	90	19	0	0	0	109
EI7IX	8	0	89	0	0	97
EI8JK	66	0	21	0	0	87
EI3IX	6	1	3	1	0	11
EI7FAB	1	1	1	1	1	5
EI?	?	?	?	?	?	?

SP DX Contest 2005

EI Scores

Single Op, All Band, CW, Low Power.

	QSOs	Points	Mults	Score
EI7GY	81	243	28	6,804

Single Op, All Band, SSB, Low Power.

EI5JQ	192	576	29	16,704
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Single Op, Three Band, Mixed, Low Power

EI/SP3SUX	204	612	48	29,376
EI7JK	152	456	33	15,048

Single Op, All Band, Mixed, Low Power

EI4CF	345	1035	54	55,880
EI6DX	156	468	48	22,464

28 MHz Beacon Report Autumn 2005

It is pretty close to the low end of the solar cycle, solar minimum will likely occur during the latter half of 2006.

10m has always been of interest to me, here is a list of beacons I have monitored recently using a 5/8th wave Sirio 827 vertical mounted at about 30 feet.

28167.6	LU3DBJ/B	GF05ug
	5w/vert	
28176.0	PY2RFF/B	419 max
28180.3	I1M/B	JN33ut 519
28182.2	SV3AQR/B	Amalias 529
28196.0	LU4JJ/B	GF08XO
28199.0	LU1FHH/B	419-519
28200.0	4X6TU/B	3 pwr levels
		NCDXF Beacon
28200.0	CS3B/B	Madeira isl 419
		NCDXF
28200.0	ZS6DN/B	519 NCDXF
		every 3 mins
28200.0	VK6RBP/B	419 on low power
28205.0	DL0IGI/B	JN57mt es 150w
28209.0	EI0TEN/B	Not operational
28213.0	LU7DQP/B	Lanus GF05th
28217.6	IQ1SP/B	JN44vc 3w 519
28219.2	5B4CY/B	519
28220.0	ER1AAZ/B	QRP 4w/GP 519+
28231.1	OH5RAC/B	KP30hv 529
28245.0	VE9BEA/B	FN65weak
28249.0	PY3PSI/B	519 3w vert gp
28256.0	C30P/B	JN02sm 10w vert
		529 ES
28263.0	EA4TDAT/B	IN80vb 5w/gp ES
28271.0	VE/W1BKR/B	FN95 Vert 3W
28.2749	KG4GVV/B	319/419
	DF0AA/B	5 5 ES
28282.0	OK0EG/B	10w
28292.0	SK0CT/B	JO89xk 419/519

Reports indicated were at time posted between 25 Sep and 2nd November 2005. ES= Sporadic E

The 28 MHz band is also cluttered with driftnet fishing beacons a large amount being located in the south Atlantic, many of these can be heard daily
<http://www.iarums-r1.org/iarums/buoys.pdf>

Did somebody mention solar minimum :-)
 Charles EI5FK



Reading the Mail

By
Michael McNamara, EI2CL

Welcome to compilation #39 of "Reading the Mail" – an account of IRTS incoming QSL Bureau activity from 30 September to 27 November 2005.

Following the usual summer and autumn doldrums, there is not much to report but, for the record, small packets (less than 1 kg) came from ARA, ARRL x3, ARV, EDR x2, G3TXF, KARL, OVSV, PP5VB, PT7-buro, RCA, RCP, and YO2. Heavier lots came from RSGB, SARA, SRAL, SRR, and USKA (2kg each), Dutch QSL buro and HRS (3.5 kg each).

Cards from the following were thought worthy of mention:

A25/KY4P, A52CDX, GB5HQ, HR5/F2JD, HS0ZEA, K6A, OH9SCL, OO7XT, PA2000N, PB60KW, TM2E, TM380, F5LPY/TU8, TZ6L, YI/KV4EB, 3W22S, 5U7JB, 5X2A, 9A2004YC, 9G5BF and 9G5ZW.

For IOTA chasers there was: FJ5DX, FO/F6CTL, GJ2A, IT9/KE6CVH, J5UAT/P, PW6AI, R1ASP, TM1X, TO5A, UE0XYZ, YW8D, 3XD02/P, 5W0SF and 9M6/PA0RRS.

Congratulations to all recipients. Until my next report, all best wishes and hoping for lots of good DX for everyone in 2006.

Michael McNamara, EI2CL



South Dublin Radio Club Christmas Party

This years South Dublin Radio Club Christmas party will take place on Tuesday 13th of December. After last years success it will be held again at the Morgue Public House in Templogue from 8pm until late.

Members of other clubs and visitors are very welcome to this social event and there is always a great turnout.

Limited free food will be available for paid up members, while visitors can choose from the bar menu up to 9pm.

After the X-mas party SDR will break until Tuesday 3rd of January.

LU3ZY First Ever 50th Anniversary

The station LR50U will be on the air during December, as it has been 50 years since the first operation from South Sandwich Island Argentine station.

The Radio Club Pampeano will celebrate this nice event during all month, and, between Dec. 7 and 12, three guys from GACW, LU1DZ, LU7EE and LW2DX, will join the locals.

The modes will be mainly CW and SSB.

You will find more and useful info regarding this item in the GACW website.

73 and best luck

Raul/LU6EF

<http://gacw.no-ip.org>

Members Advertisements

For Sale: Kenwood 790e VHF/UHF all mode, dual receive base station with manuals. €500.00

EI2JB - 087-2238125 ei2jb@ei7trg.org

Wanted: Manual or copy of, for Trio Rx Model 9R-59D.

Pat EI6HF. 059-40086 or 087-6716895

For Sale: Complete Kenwood HF Station comprising of:

Kenwood TS-140s HF Transceiver

Kenwood PS 33 Power Supply

Kenwood AT 250 Antenna Tuning Unit

Kenwood SP 31 Ext Speaker

Kenwood MC 60 Desk Microphone

This Station works beautifully. All items are in perfect working order.

Radio is 100w out and has General Coverage RX. ATU is Fully Automatic .

All items in very good condition.

Instruction Manual and Original Boxes included. Price €875.00

Ring Peadar EI2IF at 086-2630579 or 0506-56013 (after 8pm) or email pprosney@iolfree.ie

For Sale:

Alinco DR 130 VHF 5 and 50Watts

Icom 756 HF and 6 Meters

KW Atlanta with external VFO Power supply and speaker

Yaesu 101 ZD

Sommerkamp FTDX500

and one or two other items

Contact EI6HW 090 6474726 or e-mail nfmulvihill@eircom.net

For Sale: Icom IC R3 Handheld Scanner. Will pick up TV, ATV and wireless cameras. Coverage 0.495 to 2450 MHz continuous. Modes : FM, AM, WFM, AM-TV, FM-TV.

New in box €500.00 o.n.o.

Weather Station, receive from Hotbird.

Update every 15 minutes. Includes up-graded com, 1m dish, software, also

equipment to pick up A.P.T. WX satellites. Includes software, crossed dipoles etc. €2,000.00 the lot, o.n.o.

Please ring Jimmy at 061-397004

New content on the EI8IC Contesting Website

LogView

LogView is a post-contest log-visualisation tool, for analysing contest performance.

It plots the QSOs in a Cabrillo-format contest-log on to one of 8 different maps by finding the position of each QSO from an online database of about 970,

You can step through the log manually, or animate the contest at a range of speeds and watch QSOs build up

You can annotate each spot with a call-sign-label, keep a running count of Multipliers worked, display all or selected bands, compare your QSOs with published contest results, highlight gaps in your antenna coverage, search the log and spotlight results on the map, see position, distance, and bearing information for each QSO, save the map for offline viewing and analysis.

The following contests are supported by LogView: ARRL-10m, ARRL-160m, ARRL-DX-CW, ARRL-DX-SSB, ARRL-RTTY, ARRL-SS-CW, ARRL-SS-SSB, ARRL-VHF-JAN, ARRL-VHF-JUN, ARRL-VHF-SEP, ARRL-UHF-AUG, CQ-160-CW, CQ-160-SSB, CQ-WPX-CW, CQ-WPX-RTTY, CQ-WPX-SSB, CQ-VHF, CQ-WW-CW, CQ-WW-RTTY, CQ-WW-SSB, IARU-HF NAQP-CW, NAQP-RTTY, NAQP-SSB, RSGB-IOTA, STEW-PERRY, TARA-RTTY.

LogView also has a separate, dedicated Results-Viewer, that lets you create a map of the published contest results, and compare them to the results of other contests. See the 'Results' page for further details. There are currently 66 post-2001 contests that you can look at.

Please check the 'What's New' page as well:
<http://www.mapability.com/ei8ic/new.html>

There's been some additional content that you might have missed recently.

[http://www.mapability.com/ei8ic/Ham Map Heaven](http://www.mapability.com/ei8ic/Ham%20Map%20Heaven). Contester Resources.

Free zone maps, and contest bandplans. The most comprehensive free prefix maps on the web

Visit <http://www.qsl.net/ei8ic/>

Long Distance ATV.

A Dublin to Yorkshire 23cm ATV contact was made on the 23rd of November when the ATV repeater GB3YT, sited at Queensbury near Bradford was accessed by Dave EI2HR in Tallaght, a distance of 192 statute miles.

The repeater had been seen on the 22nd, but no live contacts made.

On the 23rd, contact was made with G3KJX via the repeater from his QTH in Northallerton 44 miles NE of Bradford. The two way contact peaked at P3 with QSB.

A second contact was made this time with M0DTS of Yarm which is 56 miles NE of the repeater. This one at P4. Both stations suffered from Radar interference in the form of thin horizontal white lines across their pictures but the test cards from GB3YT were radar free and reached P5 for over two hours.

The Dublin barometric pressure over the two days was 1039 mb.

The Repeater Keeper has confirmed by e-mail that these are their first contacts with the Island of Ireland.



Dave EI2HR

He tells me that pictures of the contact have been put on the following Web site. www.m0dts.co.uk which also contains a video clip.

A few years ago a direct ATV record for 70cm was made by Charlie EI2EM, with a contact from Swords Co. Dublin into Holland, a distance of 515 statute miles.

For your further interest, the Irish Amateur Television Club have a Web site at <http://www.homepage.eircom.ie/~iatc>

Valentia Island DXpedition C. 1962



L to R.: Seated Tim Gallivan EI4E, Sean Merry EI3B, Terry Deegan EI4BK, Michael Crowley EI4R, Paddy Maher EI3AV, Joe Murphy EI4AI, Tom Corry EI 127, Eamon Cassidy EI5AJ.

The gear is Central Electronics Lab Phasing type SSB exciter with outboard VFO and 4 x 807 linear amplifier, 100 watts (loaned by Pat Doran EI2DJ).

The receiver is a National HRO + Speaker + PSU.

Thanks to EI3AV



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Icom IC718 Budget HF Rig from Icom, Boxed, Mint €549.00
Alinco DX70TH, HF + 6m, 100 watts, mobile or base, in mint
condition. €599.00
Kenwood TS570D. DSP, Auto ATU, 100 watts. Very good
condition. €899.00

Shortwave Receivers

Icom ICR-75. 0-60 MHz all mode with DSP option. €749.00
Icom ICR-75, same as above with DSP fitted. €799.00
Icom IC-8500. Top class 0-2000 MHz all mode receiver, rare,
used €1,499.00
Yaesu FRG100, 0-30 MHz with PSU, Boxed, as new. €599.00
Lowe HF225. 30 kHz to 30 MHz all mode mains or 12 volt.
Great receiver €399.00
Lowe HF250. Remote control version of above with some
extras features. €499.00
Sony ICF7600. Portable receiver with SSB or FM.
Receive 76 - 108 MHz. €129.00
Roberts Portable Receiver €99.00

VHF/UHF Transceivers

Kenwood TMV7E, 2m/70cm mobile. Cool blue display €349.
Yaesu FT736R Base station 2m/70cm with 6m fitted €999.00
Kenwood TM241E 50 watt 2m mobile. No bracket/book €149
Alinco DJ190 2m handheld with drop in charger €129.00
Icom IC821H 2m/70cm 45/35w base multimode, Mint .. €899
Kenwood TR751E, 2m SSB rig, 25 watts. €449.00
Yaesu VX5R 6m, 2m, 70cm. 5 watt handheld with wide band
receive, lithium ion battery. €289.00
Kenwood TM271E. 60w, 2m mobile. Boxed, mint. ...€199.00
Yaesu FT7800 Dualband 50/35w mobile, 1055 memories.
CTCSS, DCS. €299.00
Icom IC2725 Dualband 50/35w mobile, detachable head,
CTCSS, DCS. €299.00

Alinco DJV5. Dualband handheld, nicads, charger etc €199.00
Kenwood TH-F7E. Dualband handheld with 0 - 1300 MHz
Receive with SSB €275.00

Scanning Receivers

Bearcat 780XLT, 25-1300 MHz, no gaps, trunk tracker,
500 memories, alpha tagging. Demo model. €349.00
Yaesu VR-5000, 0 - 2600 MHz. All mode receiver. Boxed
and in mint condition €599.00
AOR 5000. Top class receiver 0 - 2600 MHz. All mode.
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Bearcat 220 XLT 66-956 MHz with gaps, 200 memories,
Nicads and charger €159.00
Special Offer: Maycom FR100, 66-512 MHz with gaps.
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Icom IC8500 0-2000 MHz, all mode, 1000 memories. €1,499
Alinco DJ-X2000, 100 kHz to 2100 MHz, 2000 memories,
frequency counter, digital recording, CTCSS decoder/tone
scan, drop in charger. Cost €675.00 new, now €399.00
Yaesu VR120, 0-1300 MHz, shirt pocket size scanner. €179

Station Accessories

Watson W-30AM 30-35 Amp PSU with twin meters, volts
and amps, 0-15v. €149.00
West Mountain Radio Rigblaster Pro, all mode decoder,
Demo model. €279.00
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